

## Minutes of the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, March 5, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Renner; Members Rackauskas, Harding, Selzer and Butler

Members Absent: Member Owens

Staff Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator and Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials

Present: Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk; Sheriff Mike Emery; Ms. Beth Kimmerling, County Coroner

Others Present: Chief Deputy Sheriff Rusty Thomas, Sheriff's Department; Ms. Kim Campbell, Assistant State's Attorney, State's Attorneys Office; Ms. Mary Whitaker, Children's Advocacy Center; Rev. Tom Shea, Alternatives to Jail Committee

Chairman Renner called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Chairman Renner presented the February 5, 2007 Committee minutes to the Committee for approval.

Motion by Selzer/Rackauskas to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2007 Committee Meeting.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Sandy Parker, Circuit Clerk, presented her January, 2007 Statistical Reports and a five-year Statistical Report Summary, which the Justice Committee had requested at its last meeting. She asked that the Committee advise her as to what reports they would like to see in the future.

Mr. Selzer stated that he reviewed Ms. Parker's regular report and was able to see a correlation between the several pages of data. He noted the significant increases in cases, particularly in traffic violations. Mr. Selzer also indicated that the Five-Year Summary was helpful.

Mr. Selzer asked for clarification on the “actual last number” of traffic citations on the Five-Year Report. Ms. Parker explained that there is a “disconnect” between her reports and the State’s Attorneys reports in that the number of citations is more than the number of cases. For example, if someone were to run ten red lights, it would be considered one case, but ten citations. She stated that the “actual last number” is the number of cases assigned and the number of citations is the actual number of violations.

Mr. Selzer asked if these statistics include everything in the County including the Cities, towns and villages. Ms. Parker said that it includes everything in the County.

Mr. Selzer thanked Ms. Parker for the Five-Year Report.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There were none.

Sheriff Mike Emery presented the McLean County Adult Detention Facility Report for January, 2007.

Sheriff Emery addressed the issue regarding Court Security, which was discussed at last month’s Justice Committee Meeting. He reported that there has been an increase of violent incidents at the Law and Justice Center. Sheriff Emery informed the Committee that Court Security has not been at full staff, with one Sergeant and six Deputies. He noted that one position was inadvertently left out of the 2007 budget, but was reinstated at the February Board Meeting. Also, another position was held by a member of the military who was activated to service last year. Sheriff Emery stated that he is working to stabilize the staffing level at the allotted positions before he makes a staffing recommendation.

Sheriff Emery advised that, on March 14, 2007, the United State’s Marshall Service will conduct a Court Security assessment of the McLean County Court House. He indicated that he will provide the results of that assessment at the April Justice Committee meeting. Sheriff Emery asked that the Committee wait for that report before he answers questions the Committee may have and before he considers staffing needs. He added that the Court Security review provided by the U.S. Marshall Service is free.

Mr. Selzer commented that he appreciates Sheriff Emery’s efforts to address the issue of Court Security. He noted that it is important that the County do whatever it can to alleviate potential security problems in the future.

Sheriff Emery pointed out that the visitor count at the Law and Justice Center has increased. Mr. Selzer pointed out that the increase in traffic citations alone would cause an increase in the visitor count.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional comments or questions. Hearing none, he thanked Sheriff Emery.

Ms. Beth Kimmerling, Coroner, presented a request for approval of a Proclamation naming April as Organ/Tissue Donor Awareness Month. She stated that she is a member of the local Life Goes on Committee, which is a committee made up of members of the local organ and tissue procurement agencies, as well as representatives from the Town of Normal, City of Bloomington and McLean County government. Ms. Kimmerling indicated that, in the past, there is usually an event associated with the designation. However, this year there will not be an event. She explained that Peoria has a very nice dedicated "butterfly bench" in memory of everyone who has been an organ or tissue donor. Ms. Kimmerling reported that the Life Goes on Committee would like to raise enough money to provide an appropriate location for a similar bench in McLean County.

Mr. Selzer stated that he believes McLean County is number one in the number of residents who have signed up to be organ and tissue donors. Ms. Kimmerling responded that she does not have those statistics. She advised that there is a new program being promoted called "first person consent." This is where someone renewing their driver's license can now be on the donor registry with the designation "first person consent." This means that when a donor dies, the designation on their driver's license gives "first person" consent for the donation. Previously, a family member needed to approve the donation despite the donor designation on the driver's license. Ms. Kimmerling added that the donor/tissue procurement agency must still work with the immediate next-of-kin for input.

Motion by Selzer/Rackauskas to recommend approval  
a Proclamation naming April as Organ/Tissue Donor  
Awareness Month.  
Motion carried.

Ms. Kimmerling reviewed her January Report. She reported that January was a busier month than January, 2006. Ms. Kimmerling advised that the majority of revenue from January was from 2006 charges to other Counties.

Ms. Kimmerling announced that she expects to present her year-end report in June.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Kimmerling.

Chairman Renner presented the January Monthly Caseload Report as submitted by Ms. Amy Davis, Public Defender.

Mr. Selzer expressed some confusion on the number of felony cases as reported. Mr. Zeunik explained the number of felony cases listed on the report is the number of felony cases that were disposed of during the month of January. Mr. Selzer suggested that the reports be more concise and show comparative figures. Mr. Zeunik advised that the Monthly Caseload report breaks down the totals for the month and gives a cumulative number for the year.

After a brief discussion, the Committee concurred that they would appreciate more user-friendly statistics.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Chairman Renner presented the Court Services Monthly Report as submitted by Ms. Roxanne Castleman, Director, Court Services. Chairman Renner asked if there were questions or comments. There were none.

Mr. Kim Campbell, Assistant State's Attorney, presented the State's Attorneys Monthly Caseload Report and Asset Forfeiture Fund Report.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Campbell.

Ms. Mary Whitaker, Children's Advocacy Center, presented the Monthly Statistical Report for the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and the CASA Report. She reported that she prepared a four-year comparison from 2003-2006, as follows:

- 2003: 188 total interviews
- 2004: 262 total interviews
- 2005: 211 total interviews
- 2006: 281 total interviews

Ms. Whitaker explained that the total number of interviews include victims, child witnesses, siblings, etc. She noted that there can be one victim and several children in a family to be interviewed, so there is no way to predict how many interviews will be done in a month. Ms. Whitaker stated that February, 2007 had the largest number of interviews in 12 years, with 42 children interviewed.

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Mr. Selzer asked if their staffing changed to handle that volume. Ms. Whitaker replied that the staffing has not changed. However, there are back-up interviewers, as well as assistance available from DCFS and law enforcement.

Chairman Renner asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Whitaker.

Chairman Renner presented the February 28, 2007 Justice Committee bills for review and approval as transmitted by the County Auditor. The Justice Committee bills include a pending total of \$878.44 and a prepaid total of \$1,596,147.24 for a fund total of \$1,597,025.68.

Motion by Harding/Butler to recommend approval of the Justice Committee bills as of February 28, 2007.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Renner advised that Mr. Butler had requested that the meeting time of the Justice Committee meeting be changed to an earlier time. After a brief discussion, the Committee concurred that the Justice Committee meetings should be changed from 5:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Rackauskas informed the Committee that there was a recent article in the newspaper regarding an award for heroism that was bestowed upon a former County Board member, Mr. Adam Kissinger. Ms. Rackauskas recommended that the Administrator's Office send a card to Mr. Kissinger on behalf of the County Board acknowledging his award.

Ms. Harding announced that she will not be able to attend the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Justice Committee meeting.

Chairman Renner broached the subject of the request for the purchase of a truck that Mr. Curt Hawk, Director, EMA, had submitted the last two months. Chairman Renner advised that, prior to the Board meeting, the Chairman of the Board asked him to reconsider his motion to approve the purchase of the truck. He stated that the concern over the truck is that it was requested so soon after the 2007 Budget was approved.

After considerable discussion, the following recommendations were made:

- Request that Mr. Hawk prepare a "white paper" that provides the mission statement and overview of the EMA, including a list of equipment needs.
- Request that Mr. Hawk attend the meeting next month with his mission statement, including pictures of the truck.
- Suggest that Mr. Hawk receive assistance in preparing a marketing plan/proposal for a more concise explanation of the needs of EMA.

Mr. Zeunik stated that the Administrator's Office reviews all requests that go into Committee packets. He stated that the major problem with Mr. Hawk's request was his timing, noting that the County Board would be reluctant to amend the FY'2007 Adopted Budget so soon after the budget was approved.

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Mr. Zeunik pointed out; however, that EMA has two old vehicles, which were purchased for a totally different purpose than what Emergency Management is today. He added that the vehicles are not efficient to run and they are not dependable. Mr. Zeunik advised that to be able to dispose of two old vehicles and replace them with one 1990 vehicle that is well-suited to what EMA does, seemed to be a good business and financial decision. He stated that if the truck had been available before the 2007 budget was finalized, it would have been included in EMA's budget.

Mr. Selzer stated that if the need for the vehicle exists, it should be included in the budget even if it means buying a new vehicle for \$100,000.00.

The Committee discussed the following options:

- Mr. Hawk should submit another request to the Committee during the year if another vehicle becomes available and meets the requirements.
- The purchase of the truck should be included in the 2008 budget.

Chairman Renner requested that Mr. Hawk attend the April Committee meeting to discuss this issue.

Chairman Renner asked if there was any other business or communication for the Justice Committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse  
Recording Secretary